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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/072,109	02/08/2002	Koichi Tanaka	SONYJP 3.0-238	2542

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EXAMINER

BAUM, RONALD

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2136

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/072,109	TANAKA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ronald Baum	2136	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in reply to applicant's correspondence of 22 May 2006.
2. Claims 1-14 are pending for examination.
3. Claims 1-14 remain rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by DeMello et al,
U.S. Patent 6,891,953 B1.

4. As per claim 1; "An information processing apparatus for allowing usage of content by requiring a license for using said content, said information processing apparatus comprising:

a content storage unit operable

to store

license-identification information for

specifying said license for using said content,

encrypted data of said content and

key information required for

decrypting said encrypted data of said content *[figures 1-10 and accompanying descriptions, whereas the client/purchaser to fulfillment/content servers architecture enabled to provide the DRM aspects of the protected content (and associated licensing/cryptographic functions and structures, and the storage thereof; bound to the protected content) distribution and successful transaction services (i.e., authenticated distribution and associated decryption of protected content, referenced upon request via URL linkage), clearly encompasses the claim limitations, as broadly interpreted by the examiner.]*;

a license storage unit operable

to store said license for using said content, including

content-specifying information for specifying said content, and terminal-identification information necessary for decrypting said encrypted data of said content,

the use of which is allowed by said license *[figures 1-10 and accompanying descriptions (i.e., col. 2, lines 11-col. 3, line 66, col. 8, lines 35-col. 9, line 62, col. 11, lines 8-58, figures 4, 5, 7) whereas the client/purchaser to fulfillment/content servers architecture enabled to provide the DRM aspects of the protected content (and associated licensing/cryptographic functions and structures and the storage thereof), clearly encompasses the claim limitations, as broadly interpreted by the examiner.]*;

a judgment unit operable

to determine whether said license for using said content has been

stored in said license storage unit *[figures 1-10 and accompanying descriptions, whereas the client/purchaser to fulfillment/content servers architecture enabled to provide the DRM aspects of the protected content (and associated licensing/verification/authentication/cryptographic functions and structures and the storage thereof), clearly encompasses the claim limitations, as broadly interpreted by the examiner.]*; and

a decryption unit operable

to decrypt said encrypted data of said content if

said license for using said content has been stored in

said license storage unit *[figures 1-10 and accompanying descriptions, whereas the client/purchaser to fulfillment/content servers architecture enabled to provide the DRM aspects of the protected content (and associated cryptographic functions/distribution and decryption of protected content and structures and the storage thereof), clearly encompasses the claim limitations, as broadly interpreted by the examiner.]*”.

As per claim 9, this claim is the method claim for the apparatus claim 1 above, and is rejected for the same reasons provided for the claim 1 rejection; “An information processing

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method for allowing a user to use content by requiring the user to have a license for using the content, the information processing method comprising:

storing license-identification information for specifying the license for using the content, encrypted data of the content and key information required for decrypting the encrypted data of the content;

storing the license for using the content in a license storage unit, the license including

content-specifying information for specifying the content,

the use of which is allowed by the license, and

terminal-identification information necessary for

decrypting said encrypted data of said content;

determining whether the license for using the content has been stored in the license storage unit; and

decrypting the encrypted data of the content if the license for using the content has been stored in the license storage unit.”.

As per claim 10, this claim is the embodied software method claim for the apparatus claim 1 above, and is rejected for the same reasons provided for the claim 1 rejection; “A recording medium recorded with a program to be executed by a computer for carrying out processing to allow a user to use content by requiring the user to have a license for using the content, the program comprising:

storing license-identification information for specifying the license for using the content, encrypted data of the content and key information required for decrypting the encrypted data of the content;

storing the license for using the content in a license storage unit, the license including

content-specifying information for specifying the content,

the use of which is allowed by the license, and

terminal-identification information necessary for

decrypting said encrypted data of said content;

determining whether the license for using the content has been stored in the license storage unit; and

decrypting the encrypted data of the content if the license for using the content has been stored in the license storage unit.”.

5. Claim 2 ***additionally recites*** the limitation that; “An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a transmitter operable

to transmit a request for said license to a license server,

said license request including

said license-identification information; and

a receiver operable

to receive said license transmitted by the license server, wherein

said received license is stored in

said license storage unit.”.

The teachings of DeMello et al are directed towards such limitations (i.e., figures 1-10 and accompanying descriptions, whereas the client/purchaser to fulfillment/content servers architecture enabled to provide the DRM aspects of the protected content (and associated licensing/cryptographic functions and structures, and the storage thereof; bound to the protected content) distribution and successful transaction services (i.e., authenticated distribution and associated decryption of protected content, referenced upon request via URL linkage, enabled by the request to the fulfillment server verification aspects), clearly encompasses the claim limitations, as broadly interpreted by the examiner.).

6. Claim 3 *additionally recites* the limitation that; “An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a reproducing unit operable

to reproduce said data of said content decrypted by said decryption unit, wherein

said data of said content is

text data,

image data,

audio data,

moving-picture data or

combinations thereof.”.

The teachings of DeMello et al are directed towards such limitations (i.e., figures 1-10 and accompanying descriptions, whereas the client/purchaser to fulfillment/content servers

architecture enabled to provide the DRM aspects of the protected content (and associated cryptographic functions/distribution and decryption of protected content (and subsequent rendering/reproduction of multimedia, text, audio, etc., of said content)), clearly encompasses the claim limitations, as broadly interpreted by the examiner.).

7. Claim 4 *additionally recites* the limitation that; “An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a device-node-key storage unit operable

to store a device node key,

wherein said key information includes

an EKB (Enabling Key Block); and

said decryption unit is operable

to decrypt said EKB (Enabling Key Block) using

said device node key and

said terminal-identification information

to obtain a root key, and

to decrypt said data of said content using said root key.”.

The teachings of DeMello et al are directed towards such limitations (i.e., figures 1-10 and accompanying descriptions (i.e., col. 2, lines 11-col. 3, line 66, col. 8, lines 35-col. 9, line 62, col. 11, lines 8-58, figures 4, 5, 7) with figures 1, 9 more particularly, whereas the client/purchaser to fulfillment/content servers architecture enabled to provide the DRM aspects of the protected content (and associated licensing/cryptographic functions and structures such as license/content

keys (i.e., Enabling Key Block inclusive of a root key)/key encrypted key (i.e., device-node-key), and the storage/associated database storage thereof; bound to the protected content) distribution and successful transaction services, clearly encompasses the claim limitations, as broadly interpreted by the examiner.).

8. Claim 5 *additionally recites* the limitation that; “An information processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein:

said key information further includes

a content key encrypted using

said root key;

said data of said content is

encrypted using

said content key; and

said decryption unit is operable

to decrypt said encrypted data of said content using

said root key.”.

The teachings of DeMello et al are directed towards such limitations (i.e., figures 1-10 and accompanying descriptions with figures 1,9 more particularly, whereas the client/purchaser to fulfillment/content servers architecture enabled to provide the DRM aspects of the protected content (and associated licensing/cryptographic functions and structures such as license/content keys (i.e., Enabling Key Block inclusive of a root key)/key encrypted key (i.e., device-node-key), and the storage/associated database storage thereof; bound to the protected content) distribution

and successful transaction services, clearly encompasses the claim limitations, as broadly interpreted by the examiner.).

9. Claim 6 ***additionally recites*** the limitation that; “An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said license further includes
usage-condition information showing a condition for using said content,
the use of which is allowed by said license.”.

The teachings of DeMello et al are directed towards such limitations (i.e., figures 1-10 and accompanying descriptions, whereas the client/purchaser to fulfillment/content servers architecture enabled to provide the DRM aspects of the protected content (and associated licensing/cryptographic functions and structures; bound to the protected content) distribution and successful transaction services (i.e., authentication of client/user/purchaser and associated access control/multiple levels of protection/certificate verification aspects), clearly encompasses the claim limitations, as broadly interpreted by the examiner.).

10. Claim 7 ***additionally recites*** the limitation that; “An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said license further includes
an electronic signature signed by using
a secret key of a license server.”.

The teachings of DeMello et al are directed towards such limitations (i.e., figures 1-10 and accompanying descriptions, whereas the client/purchaser to fulfillment/content servers architecture enabled to provide the DRM aspects of the protected content (and associated

licensing/cryptographic functions (i.e., such as license/content keys (i.e., Enabling Key Block inclusive of a root key)/key encrypted key (i.e., device-node-key)), and structures (i.e., signed content/certificates via public key cryptographic data/XML structures); bound to the protected content) distribution and successful transaction services (i.e., authentication of client/user/purchaser and associated access control/multiple levels of protection/certificate verification aspects), clearly encompasses the claim limitations, as broadly interpreted by the examiner.).

11. Claim 8 *additionally recites* the limitation that; “An information processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

- a terminal-ID storage unit operable
 - to store terminal-identification information identifying
 - said information processing apparatus,
 - wherein said license request further includes
 - said terminal-identification information;
- said received license includes
 - a terminal ID; and
- said judgment unit
 - compares
 - said terminal ID in said received license with
 - said terminal-identification information stored in
 - said terminal-ID storage unit and

determines that

said received license is said license for using said content only if

said terminal ID in said received license matches

said terminal-identification information stored in

said terminal-ID storage unit.”.

The teachings of DeMello et al are directed towards such limitations (i.e., figures 1-10 and accompanying descriptions, whereas the client/purchaser to fulfillment/content servers architecture enabled to provide the DRM aspects of the protected content (and associated licensing/cryptographic functions and structures; bound to the protected content) distribution and successful transaction services (i.e., authentication of client/user/purchaser and associated access control/multiple levels of protection/certificate verification aspects, inclusive of network location/referencing information (i.e., URL references (terminal-identification information) to client/server nodes); and the storage thereof), clearly encompasses the claim limitations, as broadly interpreted by the examiner.).

12. Claim 11 *additionally recites* the limitation that; “A program according to claim 10, wherein

the program or a portion of the program is encrypted.”.

The teachings of DeMello et al are directed towards such limitations (i.e., figures 1-10 and accompanying descriptions with figure 5 more particularly, whereas the client/purchaser to fulfillment/content servers architecture enabled to provide the DRM aspects of the protected content (and associated licensing/cryptographic functions (i.e., signed content/certificates via

public key cryptographic data/XML structures and methods/DLL/API cryptographic functions), clearly encompasses the claim limitations, as broadly interpreted by the examiner.).

13. As per claim 12, this claim is the server side apparatus claim for the client side apparatus claims 1,2,8 above, and is rejected for the same reasons provided for the claims 1,2,8 rejection; “A license server for issuing a license for allowing the use of content, said license server comprising:

- a license storage unit operable

- to store said license, said license including

- content-specifying information for specifying said content,

- the use of which is allowed by said license, and

- terminal-identification information for

- identifying an information processing apparatus;

- a receiver operable

- to receive a request for said license from said information processing apparatus,

- said license request including

- license-identification information for identifying said license;

- an extraction unit operable

- to extract said license identified by said license-identification information from

- said license storage unit;

- a processor operable

- to add said terminal-identification information necessary for

decrypting said encrypted data of said content
to said extracted license;
a signature unit operable
to put a signature on said extracted license including
said terminal-identification information using
a secret key of said license server; and
a transmitter operable
to transmit
said extracted license with
said signature thereon
to said information processing apparatus.”.

As per claim 13, this claim is the method claim for the apparatus claim 11 above, and is rejected for the same reasons provided for the claim 11 rejection; “A method for issuing a license for allowing the use of content, the method comprising:

storing the license in a license storage unit, the license including content-specifying information for specifying the content, the use of which is allowed by the license, and terminal-identification information for identifying an information processing apparatus;

receiving a request for the license from the information processing apparatus, the license request including license-identification information for identifying the license;

extracting the license stored in the license storage unit and identified by the license-identification information;

adding the terminal-identification information to the extracted license;
putting a signature on the extracted license including the terminal-identification information using a secret key; and
transmitting the extracted license with the signature thereon to the information processing apparatus.”.

As per claim 14, this claim is the embodied software method claim for the apparatus claim 11 above, and is rejected for the same reasons provided for the claim 11 rejection; “A recoding medium recorded with a program to be executed by a computer for carrying out processing to issue a license for allowing the use of content, the program comprising:

storing the license in a license storage unit, the license including content-specifying information for specifying the content, the use of which is allowed by the license, and terminal-identification information for identifying an information processing apparatus;

receiving a request for the license from the information processing apparatus, the license request including license-identification information for identifying the license;

extracting the license stored in the license storage unit and identified by the license-identification information;

adding the terminal-identification information to the extracted license;
putting a signature on the extracted license including the terminal-identification information using a secret key of a license server; and

transmitting the extracted license with the signature thereon to the information processing apparatus.”.

Response to Amendment

14. As per applicant's argument concerning the incorrect DeMello et al reference date priority, the examiner has corrected the obvious typographical error concerning the '102 paragraph from 102(b) to 102(e).

15. As per applicant's argument concerning the lack of teaching by DeMello et al of "... *the license includes terminal identification information ... decrypting the encrypted ...*", the examiner has fully considered the arguments and finds them not to be persuasive. The claims *reciting claim language* specifically dealing with the phrase "*terminal identification information*", sans any context, is sufficiently broad and does not patently distinguish the claimed invention, such that the DeMello et al aspects of "the [number] of installations ..." is clearly dealing with terminal identification information as broadly interpreted by the examiner, and further, the client/server (and associated network addressing/node identification as a part of the communications protocol) architecture would therefore be applicable in the rejection, such that the rejection support references collectively encompass the said claim limitations in their entirety.

Conclusion

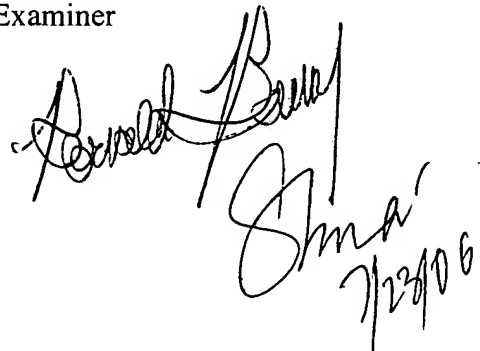
16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from examiner should be directed to Ronald Baum, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3861, and whose unofficial Fax number is (571) 273-3861. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh, can be reached at (571) 272-3795. The Fax number for the organization where this application is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. For more information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ronald Baum

Patent Examiner



Handwritten signature of Ronald Baum and date 7/23/06.